

1. (Three Times Amended) A method for powering one or more devices in a fiber optic communication network, which transmits communication data between a telecommunications service provider and a user device, the method comprising:

- transferring digital communication data between the telecommunications service provider and an optical network node;
- converting the digital communication data from an optical state to an electrical state using the optical network node;
- transmitting an electrical supply voltage from a power source to the optical network node;
- an alarm system in the power source monitoring the operation of the power source; and
- transmitting power source operation information from the alarm system to the telecommunications service provider.

20. (Once Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of transferring digital communication data between the telecommunications service provider and the optical network node comprises transferring digital communication data between the telecommunications service provider and an optical network unit (ONU).

21. (Once Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of transferring digital communication data between the telecommunications service provider and the optical network node comprises transferring digital communication data between the telecommunications service provider and a digital subscriber line access multiplexer (DSLAM).

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE APPLICATION

Prior to the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4-11 and 13-26 were pending in the application. In the final Office Action dated April 11, 2002, the Examiner objected to claims 14, 20-21 because of informalities. The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 4-10, 14-16, 18-23 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bigham et al. (U.S. Patent 5,740,075) in view